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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 22nd November, 1963

No. 13-E.—The President has learnt with the deepest regret of the death of six distinguished officers of the Armed Forces, namely, Lt. General Daulet Singh, Lt. General Bikram Singh, Air Vice-Marshal E. W. Pinto, Maj.-General N. K. D. Nanavati, Brigadier Siri Ram Uberoi and Flt. Lieut. S. S. Sodhi in an air crash on 22nd November, 1963.

Born on 4th January 1911, Lt. General Daulet Singh was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1931. He was a Cavalry Officer, and after holding various command and staff appointments including the Command of an Armoured Division, he was posted as Quartermaster General, Army Headquarters in February 1957. In August 1958, he was promoted to the rank of Lt. General and was appointed a Corps Commander in January 1959 and GOC-in-C Western Command, in May 1961.

Lt. General Bikram Singh was born on 4th July 1911, and commissioned from Sandhurst in 1933. He saw active service in the Middle East during World War II. In August 1955 he was promoted to the rank of Maj.-General and was posted to J. & K. as a Division Commander. Later he served as GOC Assam and GOC Delhi and Rajasthan Area. In June 1961 he was promoted to the rank of Lt.-General and was posted as a Corps Commander, which post he held till the time of his death.

Air Vice-Marshal Pinto was commissioned in August 1940 at the age of nineteen. He saw action in Burma and in J. & K. and was mentioned in despatches in both the operations. After holding several important appointments, he was promoted to the rank of Air Vice-Marshal in 1959, and appointed Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Operational Command, subsequently designated Western Air Command. He organised the participation of IAF Canberras in UN operations in the Congo, and was later in charge of air operations in Goa. During and after the Chinese aggression he was put in charge of transport and helicopter operations in Ladakh.

Born on 28th June 1917, Maj.-General Nanavati was commissioned in January 1938. He saw active service in the Middle East and Europe, and was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in despatches. In January 1960, he was appointed Commandant of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, and in May 1963 he was promoted to the rank of Maj.-General and given command of an Infantry Division in J. & K.

Brigadier S. R. Uberoi was born on 8th July 1917 and was commissioned in May 1941. He served in Burma during World War II and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier in September 1961 and posted as Commander of an Infantry Brigade in J. & K.

Flt. Lieut. S. S. Sodhi, born on 6th November 1937, was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in August 1956. He was awarded the Vayu Sena medal for his meritorious work in Ladakh last year.

The Government of India mourn the loss of these able and distinguished officers of the Army and the Air Force and wish to place on record their appreciation of the services rendered by them.

To the bereaved families, Government offer their sincerest sympathy.

SATISH CHANDRA, Joint Secy